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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/838,194

04/20/2001

Jeremy P. Clifford

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1551

22852

7590

05/31/2006

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EXAMINER

GREIMEL, JOCELYN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3624

DATE MAILED: 05/31/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/838,194	CLIFFORD ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jocelyn W. Greimel	3624	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 April 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>see attachment</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Information Disclosure Statement: 03/31/2004, 04/23/2003, 08/29/2001.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is in response to Applicant's application filed April 20, 2001. Claims 1-15 are being examined.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

3. Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Walters et al (US Patent Appl. No. 09/795,219); hereinafter Walters).

In reference to claims 1, 6 and 11, Walters discloses a method, system and computer readable medium for customizing a financial account product for an applicant comprising: receiving account preference information from the applicant, the account preference information describing the applicant's preferences concerning various features of the financial account product (0011-0012; 0018); recommending at least one first financial account product to the applicant based on the received account preference information (0011-0012; 0023-0025); providing to the applicant a plurality of selectable options for further defining predetermined features of the recommended financial

account product (0011-0012; 0018; 0023-0025); receiving the applicant's selected options for the predetermined features of the recommended financial account product; and customizing the recommended financial account product based on the applicant's selected options 0005-0018, 0023-0025).

4. In reference to claims 2, 7 and 12, Walters discloses a method, system and computer-readable medium, wherein the predetermined features of the recommended financial account product selectable by the applicant comprise: at least one of the following: an annual percentage rate associated with the financial account product, a fee structure associated with the financial account product, and a credit limit associated with the financial account product (0011-0018; 0023-0025; 0049-0051; 0056).

5. In reference to claims 3, 8 and 13, Walter discloses a method, system and computer-readable medium, wherein providing to the applicant a plurality of selectable options, includes: permitting the applicant to prioritize each of the plurality of predetermined features; and customizing the recommended financial account product based on the applicant's prioritization of the predetermined features (0008, 0011-0018, 0023-0025).

6. In reference to claims 4, 9 and 14, Walter discloses a method, system and computer-readable medium, wherein providing to the applicant a plurality of selectable options includes: determining, for a first predetermined feature, the value of the

selectable option for the first predetermined feature based on an option selected by the applicant for a second predetermined feature of the recommended financial account product (0018-0021).

7. In reference to claims 5, 10 and 15, Walter discloses a method, wherein recommending the first financial account product includes: recommending the first financial account product to the applicant based on the received account preference information and based on information contained in an application submitted by the applicant (0018-0021).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jocelyn W. Greimel whose telephone number is (571) 272-3734. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vincent Millin can be reached at (571) 272-6747. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Jocelyn Greimel
Examiner
May 22, 2006



HANI M. KAZIMI
PRIMARY EXAMINER